News from the Shelby County Mayor's Office Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Mayor Suite 850, 160 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

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Mayor Luttrell Disagrees With County Commission Lawsuit To Block Municipal School Elections

Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr. says the lawsuit filed by the Shelby County Commission to block elections for municipal school systemsy is not appropriate by its tone and allegations of racism.

"I'm not surprised by the lawsuit. However, I was shocked by the language. The lawsuit needs to be based on constitutional merits and not on race. Additionally, state law allows for these special elections. They should be held as planned," said Mayor Luttrell.

Mayor Luttrell had no role in the lawsuit and found the basis of the suit to be inflammatory.

"Citizens in municipalities within Shelby County should have the right to vote on whether they want to operate their own school systems," added Mayor Luttrell.

Mayor Luttrell also says the Shelby County Attorney's Office has received a request to investigate whether the lawsuit was legally filed since no official vote was taken by the entire Shelby County Commission.

Shelby County Attorney Kelly Rayne will also determine whether any sunshine laws were violated.

(End of Release)